Brighton 29th August 1848

Sir,

Fresh thanks for your fresh & ever-welcome present of Poetical leaflets, in the first of which you have expunged any discordances that may have formerly existed, tho' I have no recollection of having discovered any such when formerly submitted to me. The Epitaphs are very good & touching.

I dare say you will find some difficulty in getting your Poems published, unless you are prepared to do so on your own account, & to incur the

risk of loss, for the Publishers
seem to have left the Muses to
Mr Moxon. She is very shy unless
where there is an established
name. — I occasionally see
some of your Poems inserted
in the Brighton Papers —
Wishing you all
success should you decide on
publication I am,
Sir,
Your very obed. Servant
Horatio Smith —

(To W. C. Bennett, Esq.
11, Crooms Hill Grove,
Greenwich.)

Peace or War - the Emperor Nicholas, Russia
Persia & Turkey has produced a great
deal of excitement in England and all
over the Continent. If either party begins
fighting, God knows where it will
end. It is sure it will draw other
nations into a universal War which must
be ruinous to many and a tremendous
loss of lives, it will make many poor
& England more dull and less cheerful
than it is at present. There are
many places like Cheltenham generally
thin, many of the best houses empty
just little visiting, few dinner parties
& whist; we get now & then a few
concerts and lectures; to me it is of
no consequence being old, a great hope
is the most suitable, but for the young
people it must be very dull. Fortunately
God they had better be in their present
situation than at the seat of War where
can anyone surrender by day or night
with music & reading - Do you cultivate
the Vine - Olive &c in Zealand, if so have you
had the disease which has attacked them
in this country, and all over the Continent
it is something like the Potato's blight
it is a very sad visitation & I fear likely
to be very serious - I must now conclude
with best wishes to your children for their
health to which Dr Bethell joins in
me in kind regards to you & our remembrance
to Mrs Brown and believe me

My dear Friend
Yours very sincerely
Matthew Spratt

P.S. Have you any
flower seeds - if
very fine flowers in
New Zealand